

Anwell Veterinary Centre

41 Brighton Road

Coulsdon

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Anwell Veterinary Centre's Environmental Sustainability Policy

Anwell Veterinary Centre recognises that Veterinary Surgeons have a professional duty to consider the impact of their activities on public health and the environment.

Anwell Veterinary Centre will comply with the relevant environmental regulations and guidance using the following hierarchy. This responsibility extends to all team members.

All employees will be provided with this information and training on these environmental impacts of the practice's activities and the initiatives to mitigate these impacts. These activities will be co-ordinated by Anwell Veterinary Centre's Sustainability Champion, Molly Cosgrove, who will review and reports on our agreed targets.

General Principles of our approach

We will assess our current impact and measure using VetSustain's Veterinary Carbon Calculator (<https://vetsustain.org/shop/carbon-calculator>).

Our environmental dashboard, which displays our current status in relation to our targets, is displayed in the office at our main clinic in Coulsdon. Progress is reviewed annually against these targets.

Compliance with our initiatives, especially waste management, is reviewed quarterly but the Sustainability Champion.

Sustainability is a constant review point on the agenda for practice meetings.

Key Environmental Impacts

Molly has identified the following key areas where we can implement positive changes to reduce the environmental impacts associated with Anwell Veterinary Centre's provision of veterinary care;

1. Reduce
2. Re-use
3. Recycle
4. Energy
5. Offset

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1. Reduce

Initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint:

- Consolidate appointments if clinically suitable (e.g. vaccination with medication review), to reduce client travel requirements
- Service all clinical equipment at the same time, using the same technicians where possible, to minimise travel to the practice
- Walk to the local shops
- Travel to the Post Office once per week, and use our secure safe whilst cash remains on site
- CPD travel hierarchy: Virtual > Public Transport > travel together where possible
- Reduce our carbon footprint by
 - Sending links to files in the cloud rather than sending large email attachments
 - Deleting unwanted/draft files and emails from accounts

Reduce our energy consumption:

- Monitor and track our energy usage to assess the impact of any changes implemented
- Use times where possible to co-ordinate and automate heating/lighting/water heating controls in line with the building opening/closing times
- Set and use sleep-monitor on PC monitors and other electronic displays so that they switch off at the wall socket overnight.
- Dim PC monitors
- Install energy efficient LED lights where possible
- Don't overfill the kettle
- Report energy waste issues to the Practice Manager e.g. dripping hot tap

Consuming and procuring goods more responsibly:

- Place orders (e.g. Pioneer and Centaur) once per week as opposed to daily or ad hoc
- Use local suppliers and trades
- Order non-clinical items in bulk where possible to reduce supplier mileage e.g. washing powder, toilet rolls
- Assess main sources of non-recyclable waste and look for alternative supplies
- Assess main sources of cardboard waste and how this could be reduced in partnership with suppliers
- Use FSC approved paper and print double-sided where possible
- Minimise the use of paper. Correspondence hierarchy for reminders and invoices: email > SMS > telephone > paper

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- Minimise the use of ecotoxic products through good stock management/rotation/selection to reduce wastage from out of date products
- Prescribe and dispense the quantity of medications required e.g. less than full box if appropriate, to reduce wastage or the need for clients to return unused medications
- Responsible selection of endo and ecto-parasites in line with our existing Anthelmintic Use Policy
- Just one vet requests hard copy of Vet Record (and any other regular publications) to be delivered to the practice for general reference; other vets sign up for electronic copies only.

Reduce Clinical Waste

- Minimise the environmental impact of anaesthetic gas consumption through:
 - Biannual servicing of equipment
 - Monitoring waste gas exposure levels as an indication of wastage (in addition to meeting H&S requirements)
 - Use rebreathing anaesthetic systems as opposed to non-rebreathing systems when possible
 - Use lower-flow equipment and techniques

2. Reuse

- Reduce the use of disposable surgical textiles e.g. switch to reusable drapes (where appropriate) and surgical caps
- Encourage employees to use their own personal water bottles rather than purchasing bottled water
- Use scrap paper (making sure there are no confidential details visible) for note taking at reception

3. Recycle

- Place clearly labelled bins in each room – general/clinical/recyclable waste
- Refer to the practice's "Clinical Waste Management Policy" to manage hazardous waste in line with legislation and to ensure the correct items are sent as genuinely hazardous waste
- Aim to recycle Non-hazardous as much as possible in line with the "Waste Management Policy" by doing the following:
 - Separate soft plastic items and place in the specialist "myrefactory.com" recycling box in the staff room
 - Only place genuine confidential waste in the confidential waste bin, place all other paper in the recycling bin if it cannot be used as a scrap of note paper

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- Encourage clients to return unused/out of date meds for appropriate disposal (to avoid eco-toxicity) by:
 - Attaching an information label on dispensing bags
 - Reinforce the message by occasional social media posts
 - Participate in the profession-wide annual Antibiotic Amnesty

4. Energy

We acknowledge that switching to a greener energy supplier can have a significant impact on our environmental impact. This is a long term goal at Coulsdon and will be reviewed on an annual basis to assess the feasibility of the switch. Unfortunately, at our branch practice at Freer Farm our supply is solely reliant on the supply to the kennels and cattery and is controlled by this separate business.

5. Offsetting

- We use a reputable providers that offers accredited projects
- We consider using:
 - Energy utilised by the business
 - Employee travel to/from work
- We will promote the concept of “offset your cat/dog” packages to clients